Barnett, Isa Drawer 19a Artists - B

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Isa Barnett

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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"In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and in eternity." ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, who rescued a whole race of men from slavery and saved the American experiment in Democracy for all time, has become in the near century since his death, a kind of symbol of all the Good toward which humanity is striving; a living proof that Man can attain that Good. Revered to the point of worship, both in this country and abroad, his name has come to mean many things; as if the very name itself spells out the truest meanings of honesty, compassion, humor, and wisdom. Yet, he lives on for people as a man... a flesh and blood and bone human being whose greatness they can accept because they can accept his origin, his ways, and [illegible] like a neighbor with whom to swap yarns over the [illegible] easy-walking, easy-talking. You don't have to play up to him or he won't play down to you. You know where you are with Lincoln. And yet, there is that dedication in him, that urge of destiny, running through him and the strength to answer the challenge, and you wonder... Is some of this same greatness in my neighbor, my son, myself? There may well be, for Lincoln was one of us. Lincoln was of us. He was spokesman for all that went before him in the building of America and everything for which we have since fought to preserve.

Norman Rockwell

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1 LINCOLN AS A SMALL BOY IN KENTUCKY

Abe, and his sister Sarah, who was two years older, lived in Hardin County, Kentucky until the autumn of 1816 when the family moved to Spencer County, Indiana. Sarah, who married Aaron Grigsby in 1826, died in childbirth in January, 1828—twenty-one days before her twenty-first birthday. Both Abe and Sarah attended "A.B.C." schools for a short period, both in Kentucky and Indiana.

"THERE I GREW UP"

"I was born February 12, 1809, in . . . Kentucky." . . . (The family including sister Sarah) "Removed from Kentucky to . . . Indiana, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union." (Wrote Abraham Lincoln in autobiographical sketches he prepared years later.)

II

In the fall of 1828, young Lincoln was asked by James Gentry, a local Indiana merchant, to accompany his son Allen in a flatboat trip down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. He received eight dollars a month plus a return ticket by steamboat. It was by far the most exciting event in his young life. It was on this journey that he had an opportunity to observe the "peculiar institution" of slavery at first-hand. He returned to Indiana early in 1829.

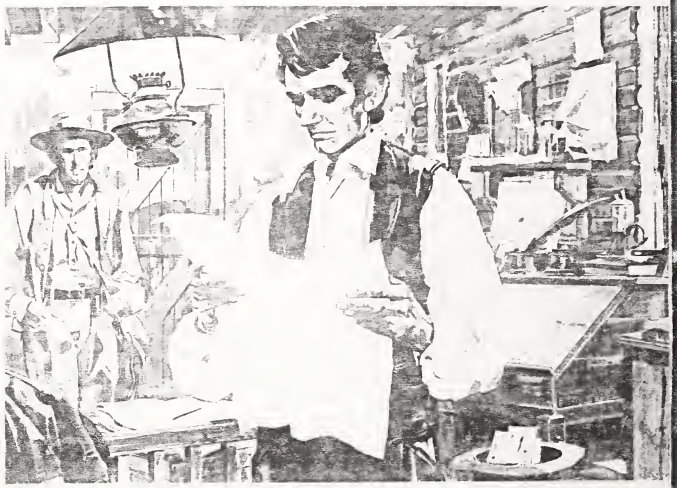
"A HIRED HAND MERELY"

"At age 19 was employed by ... residing in Indiana, he made his first trip upon a flat-boat to New Orleans. ... later recalled. 'He was a hired hand merely,' and he and a son of the owner, a man by the name of Gentry, made the trip. (Autumn, 1928)

III

LINCOLN AS POSTMASTER IN NEW SALEM

In 1830 the Lincoln family moved from Indiana to the vicinity of Decatur, Illinois. Soon afterward Abe left home and after a second trip to New Orleans, settled in July, 1831, in the little town of New Salem, eighteen miles northwest of Springfield. Here he cast his first vote; was elected a captain of a volunteer company and served in the Black Hawk war; became part owner of a general store which was not successful; served as postmaster from 1833 to 1836; and was defeated and then elected to the lower house of the Illinois General Assembly.



NEW SALEM YEARS

"At twenty-one I came to Illinois ... I got to New Salem, where I (was) ... a sort of a clerk in a store ... ran for the Legislature ... and was beaten — the only time I have been beaten by the people ... Was appointed Postmaster ... the office being too insignificant to make ... politics an objection."

IV

LINCOLN MOVES TO SPRINGFIELD

Influenced by friends in New Salem and Springfield, Lincoln studied law and was admitted to the bar on March 1, 1837. In April he moved to Springfield and became the junior partner in the firm of Stuart & Lincoln. As a member of the legislature, he was influential in the moving of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839 and it was here that he met Mary Todd of Lexington, Kentucky who, on November 4, 1842, became Mrs. Abrahom Lincoln.

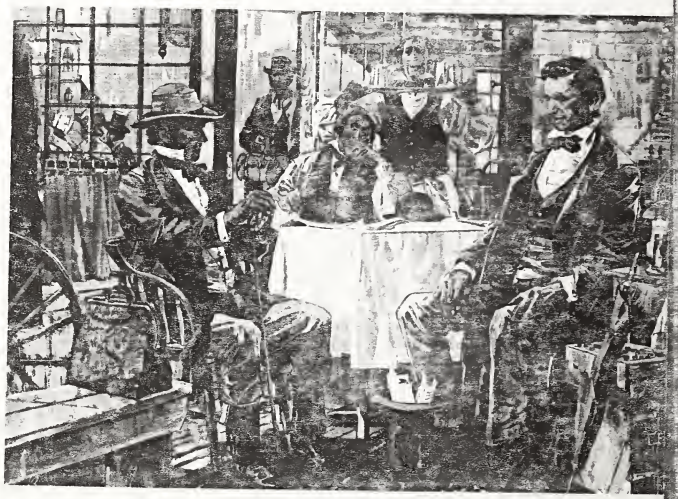
"I HAD STUDIED LAW"

". . . ran for the Legislature . . . (1832) and was beaten—the only time I have been beaten by the people. The next, and three succeeding . . . elections, I was elected. . . . During this Legislative period I had studied law, and removed to Springfield to practice it." (1837)

V

LINCOLN AS A LAWYER IN ILLINOIS

In 1841 Lincoln dissolved his partnership with John T. Stuart and became the junior partner of Stephen T. Logan. In 1844, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln moved into their own home on Eighth and Jackson Streets with their nine-month-old son, Robert. Later that year Lincoln became the senior partner in the firm of Lincoln & Herndon. His law business prospered; he was a member of the Assembly until 1841; and in 1846 wos elected to Congress, where he served a single term, 1847-1849. He wos now one of the recognized political leoders of the stote and one of the organizers of the Republican party in Illinois.



"RESOLVE TO BE HONEST"

"Resolve to be honest at all events; and if in your own judgment you cannot be an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer. Choose some other occupation, rather than one in the choosing of which you do, in advance, consent to be a knave." (Lincoln the lawyer, 1837-1860)

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VI

THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

In 1858 Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas the Democratic candidate sought election to the United States Senate. He accepted the Republican nomination with his famous "House Divided" speech. He and Douglas engaged in a series of seven debates in Ottawa Freeport, Jonesboro Charleston Galesburg, Quincy and Alton. In all Lincoln made at least sixty-three speeches during the campaign. In the election in November he received the majority of the votes but Douglas carried the legislative districts and subsequent election by the Legislature. The campaign however helped make him a national figure.

"I SHOULD NEVER BE ELECTED

[illegible] with the people of the state [illegible] I should never be elected. But whether I succeed or fail in the senatorial contest, I shall go down with my principles and my conscience in my own keeping." Lincoln's reply to Douglas' charges during the Lincoln-Douglas debates (August 1858)

VII

LINCOLN LEAVES SPRINGFIELD FOR WASHINGTON

On a rainy morning, February 11 1861 Abraham Lincoln the recently elected President of the United States rode through the streets of Springfield to the Great Western station to board a special train that was to take him toward Washington and his inaugural. It was the day before his fifty-second birthday and was to be his last look at the city where, in a quarter of a century he had risen from obscurity to the highest office in the land.

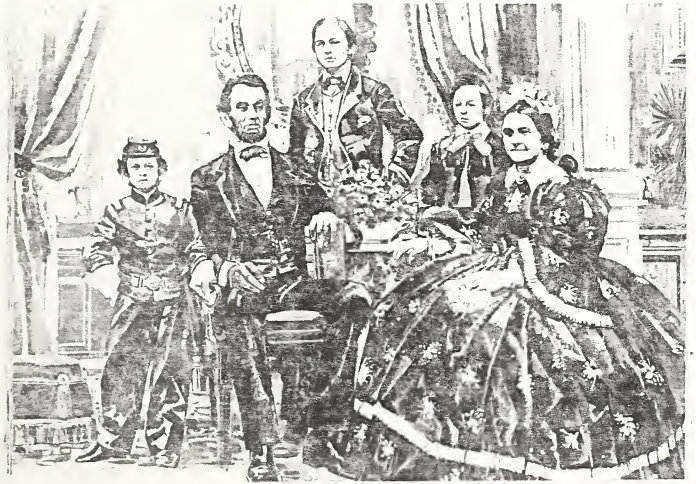
"HERE I HAVE LIVED"

"Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man [illegible] I now leave not knowing when or whether ever I may return with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington [illegible] affectionate farewell"

Lincoln leaves Springfield 1861

VIII

There were five Lincolns in the White House—the President and the First Lady, Robert Todd Lincoln, the oldest son, who was to spend most of his time away at Harvard or in the army, William Wallace Lincoln, who died in February 1862 at the age of eleven, and the youngest son, Thomas ("Tad") Lincoln, who was eight years old when the family moved into the White House. (Another son, Edward Baker Lincoln, died in Springfield, in 1850, at the age of [illegible].) In the Executive Mansion, the President wrestled with the problems of a nation torn by a bitter fratricidal struggle.



"I WAS MARRIED TO MARY"

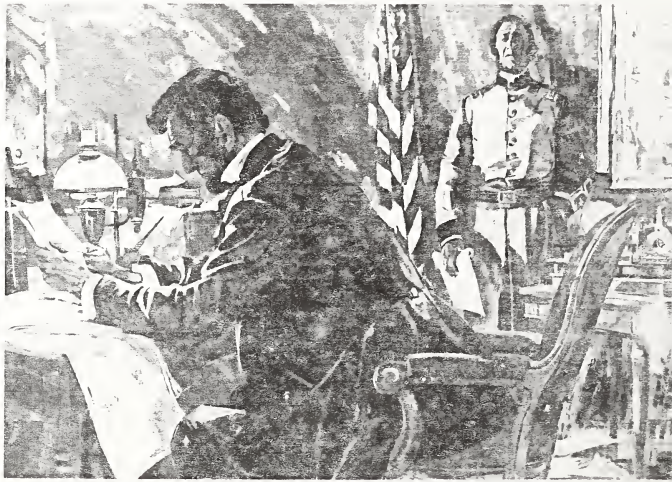
[illegible] was married to Mary, daughter of Robert S. Todd, of Lexington, [illegible] have been living children, all sons—one born in 1843, Robert Todd, one in [illegible] William Wallace, and one in 1853, Thomas, Tad. We lost one, Edward, born in 1846, Edward Baker, named for [illegible]

The Lincoln family, 1861-2

IX

LINCOLN IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICE

During the four terrible years of the Civil War, President Lincoln would often walk to the War Department to read the telegrams that had come in from the various commanders and armies. He would also confer with General Henry W. Halleck, the Chief of Staff. Sometimes, when the awful strain and anxiety made it impossible for him to sleep, he would pay visits at night or in the early morning hours and there were many messages sent and received by the President during those lonely hours.



"WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE ENEMY?"

"Your dispatches of night before last, yesterday, & last night, all received. I am much pleased with the movement of the Army. When you get entirely across the river let me know. What do you know of the enemy?" (Lincoln in the War Department Telegraph Office)

X

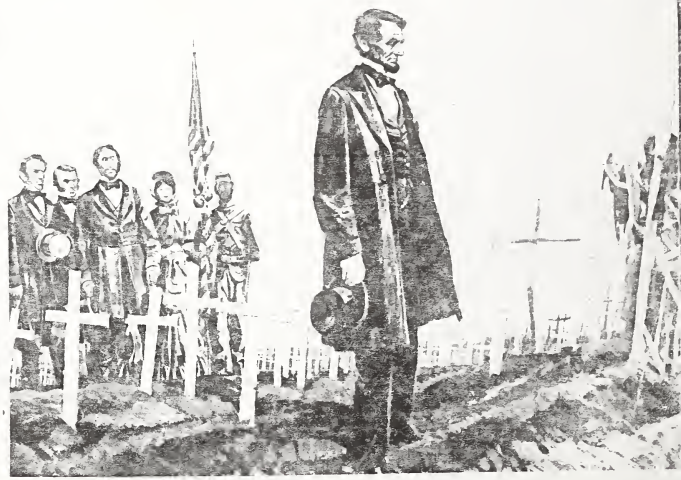
On September 17, 1862, the Union army under General George B. McClellan had stopped the northern invasion of the Confederates commanded by Robert E. Lee. At the battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland, there had been terrible losses and an opportunity to crush the Southern forces had been [illegible] through McClellan's hesitancy. In October Lincoln visited the army and the battlefield. One evening during the visit Lincoln asked his old Illinois friend [illegible] to accompany him to a hill where the two men could look down [illegible] Hill encampment of General McClellan's bodyguard."

"HAVE CAUSE YET TO REJOICE"

May our children and our children's children to a thousand generations continue to enjoy the benefits conferred upon us by a united country, and have cause yet to rejoice under those glorious institutions conferred upon us by Washington and his compeers. —Lincoln visits Antietam battlefield, 1862

XI

On July 1, 2 and 3, 1863, the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia met at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in the bloodiest battle ever fought on the American continent. On November 19 of the same year, the President, at the invitation of the committee, was asked to deliver "a few appropriate remarks" following the address of the main speaker, the distinguished Edward Everett of Massachusetts on the occasion of the dedication of a portion of the battlefield as a cemetery. After a procession to the cemetery and a visit to the graves, Mr. Everett delivered his eloquent and scholarly two-hour oration and then Abraham Lincoln uttered the 268 words which have become immortal.



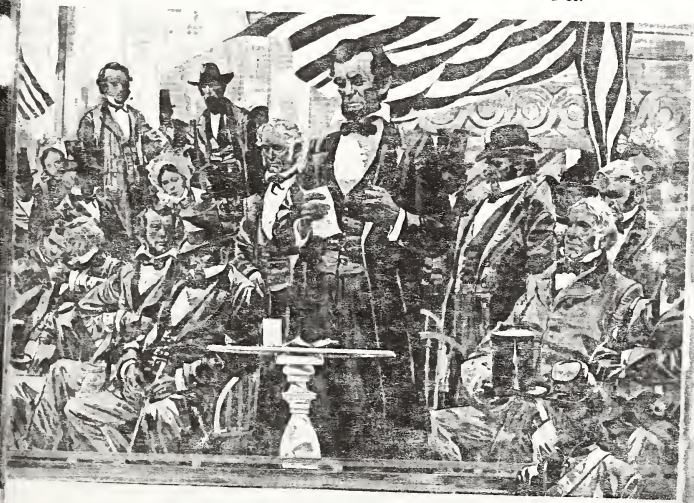
"WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE"

"We can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us . . . that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain." (Gettysburg, November 19, 1863)

XII

LINCOLN DELIVERS HIS SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, aged 56, again stood on a temporary platform erected on the east portico of the Capital to deliver an inaugural address. The bitter Civil War was finally ending and the prospect and problems of peace and a re-united nation were the main concern of the re-elected Chief Executive. Following the President's address, Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase administered the oath of office, Mr. Lincaln kissed the Bible, and left the platform. Thirty-five days later Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant met at Appomattox and the war was over. A few days following, on April 15, death and immortality came to the Sixteenth President of the United States.



"A JUST, AND A LASTING PEACE"

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations." (The Second Inaugural Address—1865)

RALPH G. NEWMAN — EDITOR

Ralph G. Newman is a nationally recognized authority on the life and times of Abraham Lincoln. He is known as an author, newspaper columnist, rare bookseller, authority on manuscripts, and a consultant for business and industry in the use of history. His books include LINCOLN FOR THE AGES, in the review of which he was described by the authoritative New York Times as a "master of Lincalniana"; EYEWITNESS: THE CIVIL WAR AS THEY LIVED IT, (with Otto Eisenschiml); and THE CIVIL WAR DIGEST (with E. B. Long). His column, "Do You Remember?" appears in the Chicago Tribune and has a national audience. Over 150 authors, in their books relating to Lincoln and the Civil War, give credit to him for his assistance. Allan Nevins, our greatest American historian and Pulitzer Prize winner, has referred to Ralph Newman as a "national resource." His Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago is a unique institution known throughout the world. He was the founder of the Civil War Round Table, which now exists in more than 150 cities in the United States and abroad.

ISA BARNETT — ILLUSTRATOR

Isa Barnett was born in Philadelphia in 1923. His abilities began at the early age of 7. To further develop his artistic talents, he attended Fleisher Art School in Philadelphia. Upon graduation from high school, Barnett was awarded a scholarship to the Philadelphia Museum College of Art. During World War II, he served as a parachutist in the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division.

Barnett's work includes illustrations for such magazines as Saturday Evening Post, Argosy, True, American Heritage and Life. He recently completed four paintings on the Civil War for Life magazine. Barnett has done cover illustrations for Random House and Readers' Digest, and a series of illustrations for Bantam Boaks, including Henry VIII, Marco Polo, Men Against Nature, and The Story of the Civil War.

Barnett lives on a farm in suburban Philadelphia with his wife, Annette, and three sons. The artist converted an old barn into two studios, which he and his wife both occupy. Barnett's studio is filled with reference books as he believes in thorough research before beginning a painting. He has a superb collection of American Indian and African relics, enjoys dabbling in sculpture, and is also on the staff at the Philadelphia Museum College of Art.

Editor's note:

The text used with each illustration is written by Abraham Lincoln and was selected from the most authoritative edition of his writings—THE COLLECTED WORKS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 9 volumes, published by Rutgers University Press, 1953-55.

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